SARAH PALIN GOVERNOR

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STATE OF ALASKA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR JUNEAU

November 21, 2007

Mr. Tom Lonnie State Director Bureau of Land Management Alaska State Office 222 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 13 Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Lonnie:

Thank you for providing the State of Alaska with a copy of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement prepared according to BLM's planning regulations and guidance issued under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). We appreciate BLM's efforts, consistent with the spirit and intent of this legislation, to work and consult with state resource agencies throughout the development of this plan. I believe that this cooperative approach has benefited both the State of Alaska and the BLM. We appreciate the additional opportunity provided through the Governor's Consistency Review, to identify inconsistencies with approved state plans, policies, and programs pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.3-2.

We recognize the difficulty inherent in developing a land use decision-making document designed to provide overarching guidance in such a large area where land status is in flux due to unresolved state and native land selections. Development of the Kobuk-Seward plan has presented challenges for both BLM and the state and we are pleased to see that those challenges have been met. We have reviewed the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement and appreciate the changes made to the document since our last review in March 2007. We find the plan to be consistent with state interests, plans, policies, and programs.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend your staff for their work in developing this plan and in particular acknowledge BLM's efforts to address state concerns throughout the planning process. Our respective agency representatives have

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developed an effective working relationship that I trust will serve BLM and the state well in future planning efforts.

Sincerely,

Sarah Palin Governor

cc: Tom Irwin, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources John Katz, Director of State/Federal Relations and Special Counsel, Alaska Office of the Governor, Washington, DC